

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 AID-05 SS-15 HEW-06 DODE-00

NSC-05 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

TRSE-00 USIA-15 OES-06 OMB-01 /091 W

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R 181200Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7693

UNCLAS ROME 8063

FOR S/NM; OES/SCI; NIDA - DR. DUPONT

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SNAR, OCON, IT

SUBJ: CONFERENCE ON DRUG DEPENDENCE - MAY 5-7, 1976

REF: STATE 102876

1. SCICOUNS ATTENDED CONFERENCE PURSUANT TO DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST. (AMBASSADOR VOLPE WAS ALSO PRESENT AT OPENING CEREMONIES WHEN HE MADE A BRIEF ADDRESS). IN OPINION OF SCICOUNS AS WELL AS OTHER OBSERVERS THE CONFERENCE WAS AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS AND CAN SERVE AS A MODEL FOR SIMILAR MEETINGS ELSEWHERE. THE CONFERENCE WAS WELL PLANNED, SPEAKERS WERE GOOD, ITALIAN REPRESENTATION WAS EXCELLENT AND DISCUSSION OF ISSUES WAS LIVELY AND VIGOROUS.

2. THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL AND ADDICTION (ICAA), WHICH MADE ALL PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE AND HANDLED ITS ADMINISTRATION, DESERVES MUCH CREDIT FOR ITS SUCCESS. QUESTIONNAIRES COMPLETED BY PARTICIPANTS ARE NOW BEING REVIEWED BY ICAA STAFF AND RESULTS WILL BE INCLUDED IN ICAA REPORT TO BE MAILED NIDA BY AY 21. ICAA WILL ALSO ARRANGE FOR CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS TO BE PUBLISHED WITH DISTRIBUTION LIKELY TO OCCUR THIS SUMMER (LATE JULY OR AUGUST).

3. ITALIAN PRESS COVERAGE WAS FAVORABLE. HOWEVER, OWING TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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BROAD COVERAGE SUBSEQUENTLY GIVEN THE ITALIAN EARTHQUAKE

DISASTER, WHICH OCCURRED MAY 6, THERE WERE NO ARTICLES BEYOND THOSE APPEARING IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE OPENING DAY.

4. ITALIAN HEALTH OFFICIALS OBVIOUSLY SINCERELY APPRECIATED THE U.S. INITIATIVE IN ARRANGING AND SUPPORT FOR THE CONFERENCE AND ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT ABOUT ITS SUCCESS. HOWEVER, IT IS TOO SOON TO SAY WHAT CONCLUSIONS THEY WILL DRAW FROM IT AS THIS MUST AWAIT THEIR EVALUATION WHICH WILL BE IN PART BASED ON QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS. THE EVALUATION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE DELAYED BY THE FACT THAT GOI IS PRESENTLY DEVOTING MUCH OF ITS TIME AND ENERGIES TO EARTHQUAKE DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS. ANOTHER MAJOR FACTOR PRESENTLY PREOCCUPYING ITALIAN OFFICIALS IS UPCOMING ELECTIONS IN JUNE.

5. APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-UP ACTION BY NIDA OR OTHER USG AGENCIES MUST FOR THE MOST PART AWAIT EVALUATION BY ITALIAN OFFICIALS OF WHAT THEIR NEEDS ARE. WE SHALL KEEP IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THEM AND INFORM THE DEPARTMENT PROMPTLY OF ANY CONCRETE PROPOSALS THAT APPEAR WORTHWHILE. IN THE MEANTIME NIDA MAY WISH TO EXPLORE FEASIBILITY OF COOPERATING WITH CITY OF VERONA IN A PILOT PROGRAM BASED ON NIDA CODAP SYSTEM, AS REQUESTED OF DR. SPILLANE OF NIDA BY VERONA OFFICIALS. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUGS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME08063
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760192-0327
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760541/aaaabjga.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SNM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 102876
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUL 2004 by mendozsm>; APPROVED <26 JAN 2005 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONFERENCE ON DRUG DEPENDENCE - MAY 5-7, 1976
TAGS: SNAR, OCON, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006